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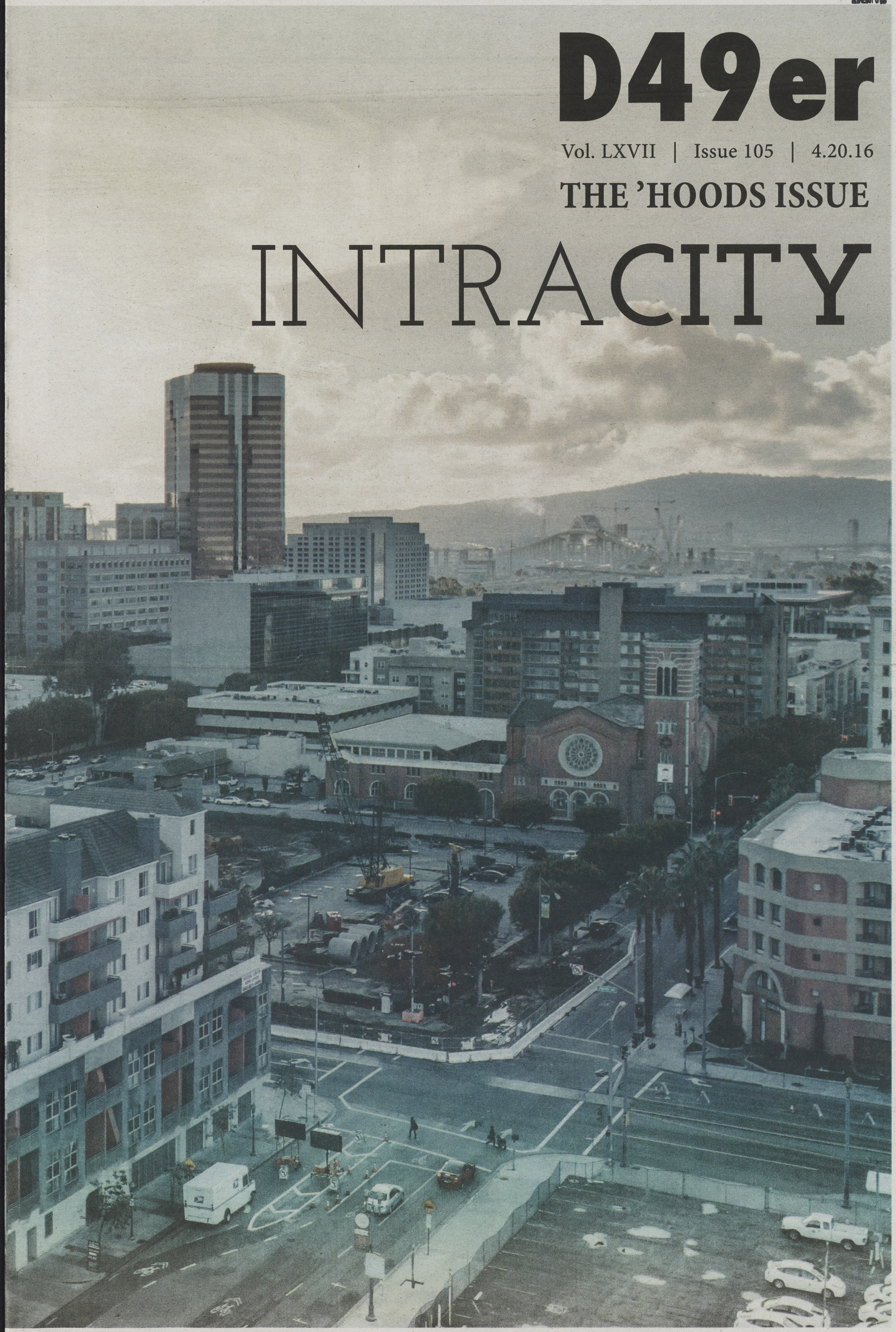
THE 'HOODS ISSUE

INTRACITY



CITY LIMITS

Time and time again, Long Beach has been ranked among the most diverse cities in the country. The city is a patchwork of communities, each with their own set of varied issues. In these pages, The Daily 49er fixes it's focus on hyper-local stories affecting specific Long Beach neighborhoods from the Westside to Rose Park and from North Long Beach to Belmont Shore.

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Bixby Knolls
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North Long Beach

Lakewood Village

Los Cerritos

Bixby Knolls

California Heights

Airport

South of Conant

El Dorado Pa

Westside

Sunrise

City Of Signal Hill

Wrigley

City College Area

Eastside

Poly High District

The Plaza

Los Altos

Circle Area

Zaferia

Cambodia Town

State College Town

Downtown Long Beach

Hellman

Rose Park

4th Street Corridor

Alamitos Heights

East Village

Broadway Corridor

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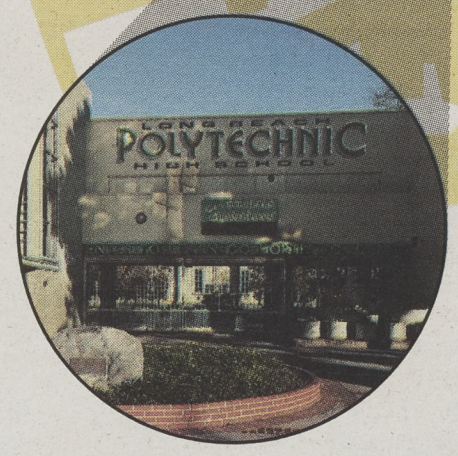

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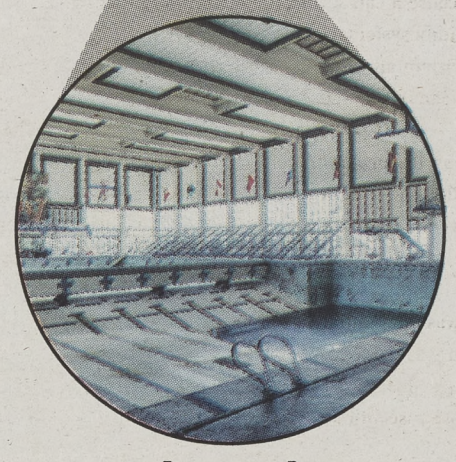

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COURTESY OF ABBY LANES VIA FLICKR

Although lead blood levels in children has been declining, the CDC still estimates that four million households in the US have children living in them that are being exposed to high levels of lead.

Eastside

Just east of the Los Angeles River, this neighborhood was once home to the now defunct V.I.P. Records where Nate Dogg, Warren G and Snoop Dogg recorded their first demo tape. This side of "the canal" was the former stomping grounds of the then unknown hip-hop artists, the neighborhood is also home to Long Beach Polytechnic High School, which began offering classes in 1895.

Long Beach, we have a Pb-lem

Childhood lead exposure in Long Beach is down but not yet out.

By Kevin Flores
Special Issues Editor

The Flint, Michigan water crisis, in which corrosive water caused lead from aging pipes to leech into the water supply, exposed up to 12,000 children to high levels of lead. In January, the Long Beach Water Department released a statement reassuring residents that the city's water was safe and is not transported by "lead service lines."

Water, however, is not the only source of lead exposure. According to the CDC, lead-based paint is the most widespread and dangerous high-dose source of lead exposure for young children.

Lead paint was banned in the United States in 1978, yet many Long Beach buildings were built before the ban and still contain the toxin in their paint. Because lead poisoning can be symptomless it often goes undiagnosed and even short periods of exposure are deleterious to a person's health, especially in children.

The Long Beach Department of Health & Human Services Bureau of Environmental Health Lead Program is responsible for investigating childhood lead poisoning and enforcing environmental ordinances.

Alex Ucelo, a health educator with the program, says that children absorb 50 percent of the lead they come into contact with and that lead is especially dangerous for children between the ages of one and six because it can stunt the development of bodily systems, including the nervous system and brain. At high levels, lead can even cause death.

A brochure posted on the program's website states that "childhood lead poisoning is the most preventable environmental health hazard facing children nationwide."

Because lead paint was more durable than unleaded paint, it was most commonly used in buildings closest to the beach which were most susceptible to corrosion.

"[In Long Beach] the closer you get to the beach, the more likely you are to find lead paint," said Ucelo.

In 2012, the city received a Lead Based Paint Hazard Control grant of $2,299,996 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The grant was meant to target downtown, Central and North Long Beach. Since then, the city has not received funding from HUD for lead abatement.

With the grant, the Environmental Health Lead Hazard Control Program protected 206 low-income residents, including 80 children from lead-based paint exposure in their homes by directing 52 lead remediation projects, according to the city's 2016 budget.

The Long Beach Lead Program maintains a directory of affordable housing units made lead-safe using the HUD lead grant funding, a majority of which are located south of the 405 freeway and east of the 91 freeway, leaving large swaths of North Long Beach and Westside with few listings.

The program uses HUD funds, when available, to control lead-based paint hazards in pre-1940 affordable housing occupied by families with children aged 5 or younger in targeted high-risk areas of the city.

According to HUD, minorities and low-income residents are typically those most likely to live in older buildings that contain lead.

The news website Vox recently used housing and poverty data to calculate the lead exposure risk across the country. Downtown Long Beach, the Westside and North Long Beach had some of the highest lead exposure risk level, with many neighborhoods scoring nine and ten, the highest possible score.

State law requires counties to report all blood lead level test results to the California Department of Public Health Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch.

Although blood lead levels have been in steady decline since the ban on lead gasoline and paint, the CDC estimates that 4 million households in the U.S. still have children living in them that are being exposed to high levels of lead.

The most recent information available for Long Beach, from 2012, shows that out of the 8,770 children age 6 and under screened, 2.09% had a lead blood level of over 4.5 micrograms per deciliter compared to 1.95% in the rest of Los Angeles County.

According to the CDC, there is no safe lead blood level. The California Department of Public Health recommends that children with levels above 4.5 micrograms per deciliter should receive public health action to reduce their future exposure to lead.

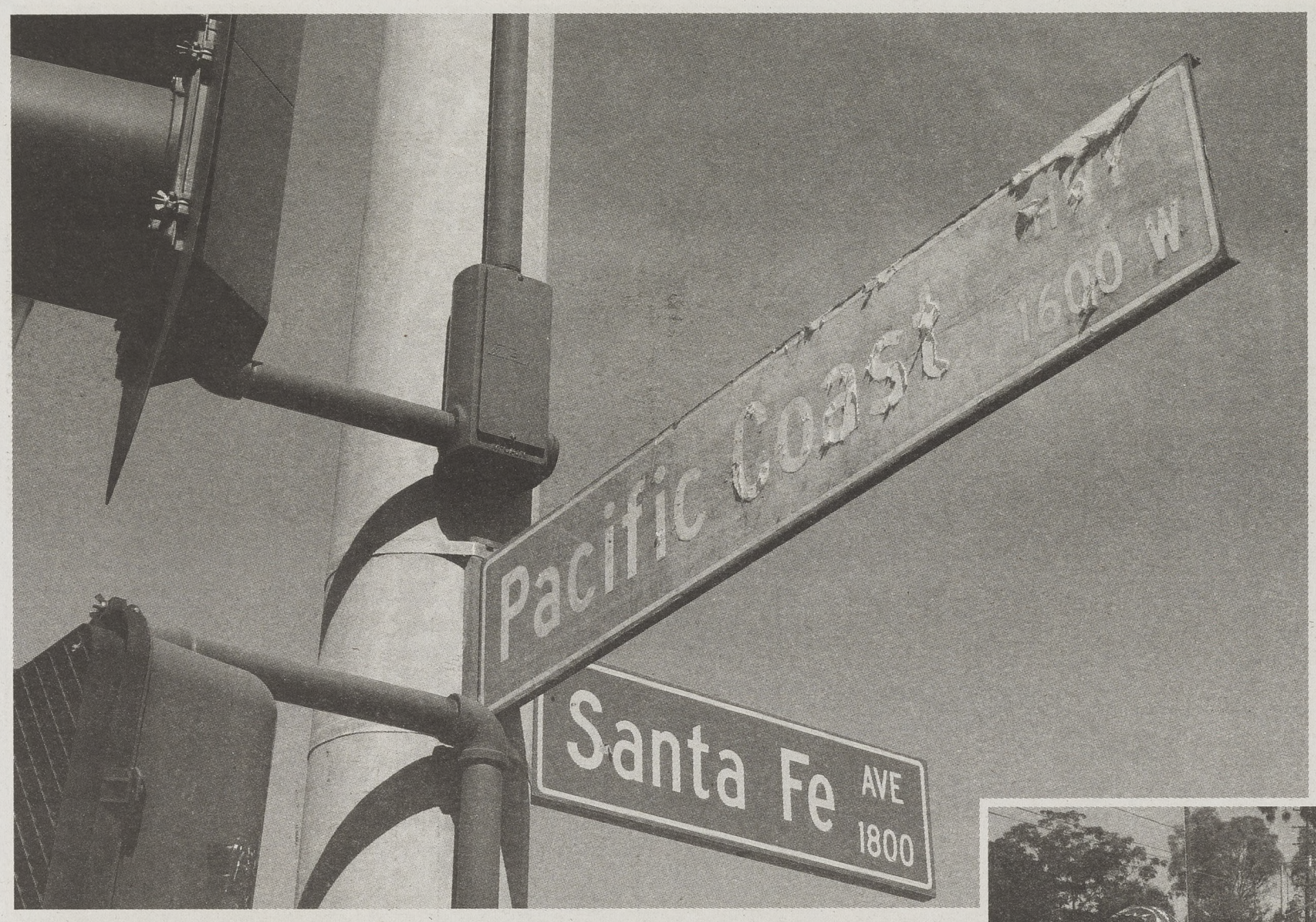
Lead poisoning in children can decrease cognitive function and a lower IQ. Once the damage is done, it is irreversible.

A 2012 study by Rick Nevin, a consultant to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Tulane University researcher Howard Mielke linked childhood lead exposure to criminality later in life.

Ucelo says parents who suspect their home may contain lead should purchase test strips from a hardware store. If lead is found, he recommends that children should be encouraged to maintain good hand washing habits. If lead is present on the outside of the home, children should not be allowed to play in the soil because it may be contaminated.

According CDC nutrition can also mitigate the effects of lead. Foods high in calcium, iron and vitamin C.may help keep the toxin out of the body.

Long Beach also provides free blood lead screening and testing through the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.



Westside

Zip code: **90810**
Population: **36,735**

Severed from the rest of the city by the 710 Freeway and the Los Angeles River, the western front celebrates a proud past tied to industrialization gains and the Navy. This area is predominantly inhabited by working-class families with almost 50 percent of the population deriving from Hispanic or Latino descent. Mass deindustrialization spurred poverty levels in the '70s. Though headway has been made by the West Long Beach Association, founded in '97, to improve the quality of life, the Westside remains to be one of the poorest areas molded by the highest crime rates, often gang-related, recorded throughout all of Long Beach.

Photos by Kevin Flores | Daily 49er

COLUMN:

MANY SIDES TO THE WESTSIDE

Borders within cities sound like something out of the Cold War, but when it comes to the western half of Long Beach that seems to be the case.

By Josh Barajas
Sports Editor

Just as the Soviets kept East Berliners isolated from the chaos that surrounded them, Wrigley is a quiet enclave amidst the most dangerous places in the city – instead of armed forces blocking access between the areas, their street signs are enough. Cross a bridge over the Los Angeles River and 710 Freeway and you're in the Westside. Head south past Pacific Coast Highway and you're in the notorious East Side Snoop Dogg raps about. You can go north a couple miles, just make sure you don't go past the luscious golf course in Bixby Knolls over to the "wrong" side of Del Amo Boulevard and into North Long Beach.

It's strange not being able to cross certain streets or bridges. You can see houses, cars and stores just like the ones on your side, but there are a different set of rules. What street you're from can mean the difference between life and death.

The Los Angeles Times' Homicide Report shows that 32 of the 46 murders over the last year in West Long Beach took place north of Del Amo and south of PCH. A map of shootings and murders in 2013 by LBReport showed the same areas, plus the Westside, affected.

Until the age of 14, my parents made sure I never wandered outside of "The Wriggs." My elementary school was within the safe confines of imaginary borders encompassing our neighborhood. My middle school experience in the luxurious Bixby Knolls was a breeze, but things changed when it came time to pick a high school.

I was willing to go anywhere, except Jordan in North Long Beach and Cabrillo in the Westside. Jordan didn't make sense because it was too far, but Cabrillo was within walking distance.

The question was: Was I willing to trek through the war zone on the other side of the canal?

One of the few things I knew about Cabrillo at that point was that gang members shot and killed a student mere blocks away from the school in broad daylight on a Thursday in February of 2005. That's all I knew and all I needed to know to look elsewhere.

As luck would have it, enrollment at the other high schools filled up and there was Cabrillo with open arms, waiting to take me inside its prison-like walls – no, seriously, the place looked like a correctional facility. There were towers at the corners that look ideal for a sniper, infinite chain-link fences and staff workers with dire expressions. No one seemed like they wanted to be there.

The transition from middle school in Bixby Knolls, where my main concerns included getting to the lunch line first and finding enough time for a quick pickup basketball game, to high school in the Westside, where I had to make sure I didn't wear the wrong colors and look at someone from the Westside Longos or the Rollin' 80s West Coast Crips the wrong way, was mindboggling. The most puzzling part about it was that these completely opposite worlds were within a two-mile radius from my calm childhood home. The markers that we set in safe, little Wrigley made sense.

But after spending a large portion of my time over four years in the Westside, I got a good look at the real world. And if I had a chance to go back and pick a different place to go to high school, I'd stick with the Westside.

During this time, I met lifelong friends and discovered great spots to shop and grab delicious Mexican, Filipino and Vietnamese food. The best burger place in Long Beach is on the corner of Santa Fe and Wardlow.

Sadly, the crime is still there; the thefts, the gang fights, the vandalism and, unfortunately, the murder.

Just last year, another Cabrillo student was killed, in broad daylight, on a Thursday, by a gangster just blocks away from the school. On March 12, 2015, Giovanny Montelongo, 15, was stabbed to death for refusing to hand over his backpack to his assailant.

West Long Beach is still a tough place if you aren't fully aware of the complexities of its people and neighborhoods. Race, ethnicity, gangs and location all factor into staying safe. It's too easy to catch yourself in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Daily 49er

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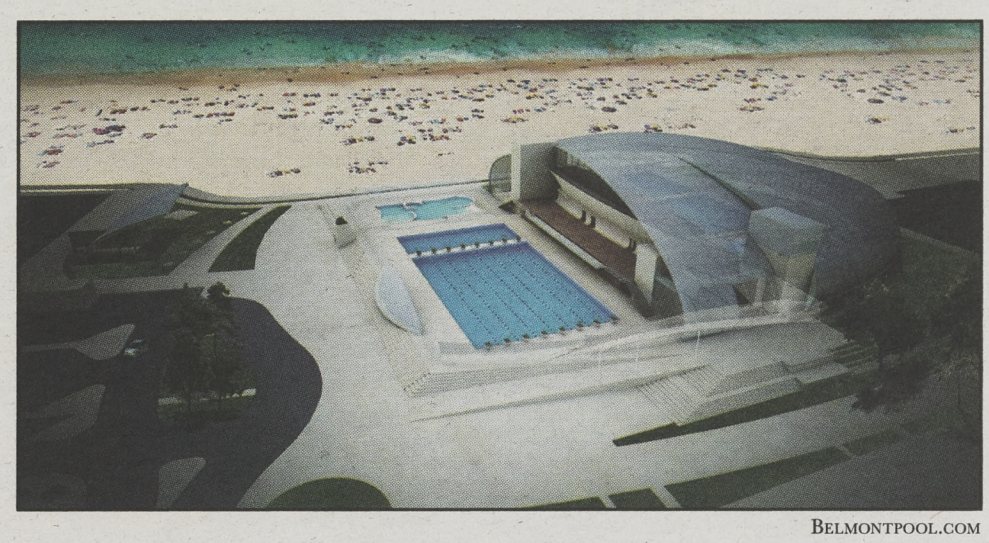
A city pools for state-of-the-art

A recent environmental report opens discussion to the public on the next step for revitalizing long-time Long Beach landmark, the Belmont Pool.



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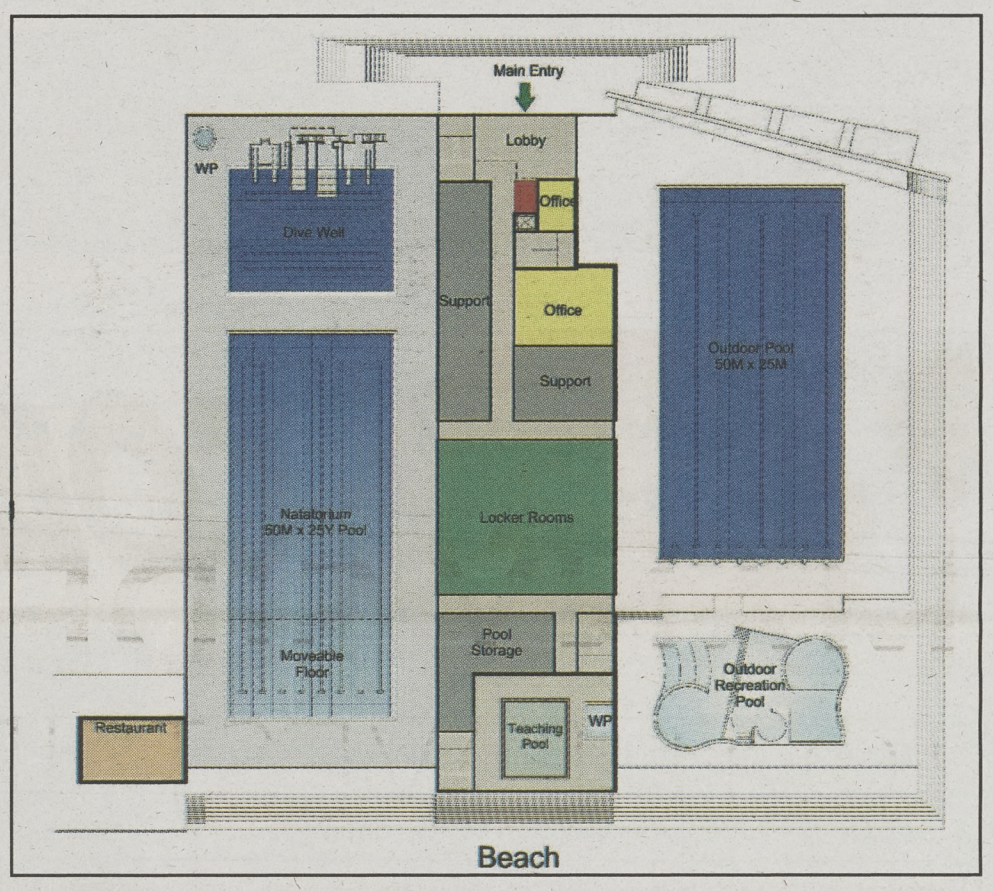

Schematics of the new Belmont pool currently under contruction.

By Brooke Becher
Asst. Special Projects Editor

Crisp 5 a.m. mornings at the Belmont Pool were a day-in and day-out commitment for Cal State Long Beach alumna Danielle Scharer during her Wilson High School water polo heyday.

The water was heated and for once, parking was a breeze in Long Beach.

What wasn't so glorious was swimming with occasional ceiling debris throughout their 3-hour practices.

"It was always an ongoing joke with my teammates and friends during high school about how bad of shape the pool was in. Tiles were falling off the sides [of the outdoor pool], the heater was sometimes broken and lane lines were starting to crack," Scharer said. "I had a friend tell me they had a piece of the ceiling fall into the pool during practice one day. It didn't surprise me.

The now-demolished white pillars of the modern-Greco architecture are best remembered for their role in the Olympics. The coastline plaza, the facility that housed the Belmont Pool, was built in anticipation of the 1968 U.S. Olympic swim trials, which took place just 15 days after it opened its doors.

In 1974, at its second Olympic trials event, attendees saw Greg Louganis qualify for the Montreal Games after a successful heat, before becoming a four-time gold medalist.

Though the old aquatic center extended its late '60s legacy to millennials of Wilson High School athletics, or those initially introduced at a younger age through the Junior Lifeguard Program like Scharer, the Belmont Pool Revitalization Project looks to makeover the site for the next generation.

On Wednesday, the City of Long Beach released a Draft Environmental Impact Report "to provide both the public and local and state governmental agency decision makers with an analysis of potential environmental consequences to support informed decision making."

From 9 to 11 a.m. last week, the City of Long Beach met with a design team at the Golden Sails Hotel to amend their proposal of the Long Beach Revitalization Project and to release the Draft EIR.

The report revealed tentative plans for five overall alternatives within its 84 pages, including one "No Project/No Development" alternative, for the renovation of the Long Beach landmark.

All five alternatives in the report either require no necessary mitigation measures or offer routes of action in order to create a "less than significant" level of impact across the board.

Rachael Tanner, a program specialist at the city manager's office, explained that the intention of the released report is to invite community entities to sound off.

"At this time, the public is welcome to engage through the Draft Environmental Impact Report," Tanner said. "Members of the public may submit comments and attend planned study sessions regarding the project."

This document is the latest installment in the three-year narrative of the facility since its official closure in early 2013 when engineers deemed the natatorium seismically unfit for a moderate, 5.0-level earthquake. Onsite demolition ensued almost two years after the call to close the pool was made.

Elegantly roofed by a light-filled, lightweight architectural design, the proposed $103.1 million aquatic facility features two 50-meter pools, one located indoor and one outdoor, according to the project's website.

A movable floor will be at the base of the indoor pool, granting a multipurpose, adjustable profile for both shallow-bottom, recreational activities as well as all-deep competitive events. A separate dive well and training pool are also included in the blueprint.

Parallel to the north-south facing building, the outside floor plan includes a recreational pool, public restrooms, a small café area and a park just under the size of a football field.

Past plans noted the amount of indoor seating doubled from 600 to 1,200 in order to accumulate revenue for the city by drawing in a larger crowd, adding $4.1 million to the initial $99 million budget, according to feedback from a Stakeholder Advisory Committee in 2014.

Revenue from food purchases, hotel bookings and event hosting would ideally pay for the added cost as well as add to profit margins in the long run.

In regard to the budget, Tanner said that project funding comes from the Tidelands Capital Budget, which is funded entirely by oil revenues of the city.

Due to the dependent relationship between oil revenue and the price of oil, the project's construction timeline and budget plans may have to cope with unforeseeable fluctuations as the tentative 2020 date of completion approaches.

The window for public comment extends from April 13 to June 16. All comments must be submitted in written form to the city's senior planner Craig Chalfant at craig.chalfant@longbeach.gov before the deadline.

As for Scharer, she will be looking forward to the 18,000 square foot increase in pool space. She recollected the competition for space and time slots amongst aquatic sports teams across differing league levels that relied on the community facility.

"The pool renovation is definitely necessary," Scharer said. "Long Beach deserves it."

Belmont Shore

Population: **6,171**
Zip code: **90803**

Affectionately coined by locals as simply 'the Shore,' the beach and bayside community is made up of charming, Spanish-style bungalows on a tight, post-oil boom grid tied together by back alleys. This hood's ever-changing storefronts and booming bar-crawl scene consistently keeps Second Street on outsiders' maps of must-visit lists.

Jan 2013
City of Long Beach announces that a structural assessment deemed the Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool to be seismically unsafe and would not survive a "moderate earthquake."

Dec 2013
Temporary pool constructed in the parking lot opens.

Mar 2014
Long Beach City Council approves contract for contemporary pool design.

Nov 2014
Demolition begins on the main structure.

Apr 2016
A Draft Environmental Impact Report is released to the public including five alternative routes of action. Submission for public comment opens.

June 2016
Comments from decision makers and public close for submission.

Spring-Fall 2017
The City develops a working design based on research and raised concerns.

Fall-Spring 2017-2018
Building plan is checked and the permit process ensues.

Fall-Spring 2018-2020
Site undergoes facility construction until tentative completion of the Belmont Beach and Aquatics Center in 2020.

Long Beach, 90802

The unequal distribution of wealth in Long Beach leaves children particularly vulnerable.

By Michaela Kwoka-Coleman
Staff Writer

While some areas of Long Beach are in the middle of a renaissance, other areas are still experiencing economic hardship.

In March, ReThinking Long Beach published the "Long Beach Equity Atlas: Geographical Opportunity." The purpose of the report is to show the geographic distribution of "Ethnic populations, resources, access to opportunities, and the relationships between them."

ReThinking Long Beach is a civic engagement action group that works with social justice movements.

According to the "Long Beach Equity Atlas," 21 percent of Long Beach residents live below the poverty line. The report says that the poverty rate in Long Beach is higher than the rest of Los Angeles County and the U.S.

This poverty is even more prevalent among youth under the age of 18. About 29 percent of those under the age of 18 live in poverty, and in Long Beach's Sixth Council District, that number is over 40 percent, according to the report.

The Sixth Council District includes neighborhoods such as Poly Heights and South Wrigley, historically known for gang violence.

During February's Long Beach's People's State of the City Address, hosted by the community group Long Beach Rising, host James Suazo said that the high rate of poverty means shorter life expectancies, less access to fresh food and quality housing, and higher rates of pollution, among other problems.

The Sixth Council District is inhabited primarily by Latinos, African American, and Cambodians, among other ethnic minorities.

Suazo said that although the unemployment rate in Long Beach dropped to a seven-year low of 6.4 percent in December 2015, the number of people living in poverty has remained the same.

Executive Director of Housing Long Beach Josh Butler said in an email that because of the cost of living in Long Beach, many people are forced to choose from basic living needs such as food, healthcare and transportation.

Housing Long Beach is one of the many nonprofit groups that works to improve and increase the availability of affordable housing in Long Beach.

According to photographer Duke Givens, who made a documentary about gang life in the 6th City Council District and who grew up in the Poly High neighborhood, poverty is broken into two categories: economical and social.

The economic aspect of poverty is the jobs available in the area in order to afford children a decent quality of life. According to Givens, the economics of poverty often force children to go to school hungry. This hunger often distracts them and inhibits their ability to pay attention in class.

Butler agreed that economic poverty puts a health risk on children.

"[Poverty] creates an… unhealthy environment for children, their parents, and their neighbors," he said in an email. "This can lead to a high-stress environment… which can put our youth at risk."

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BIOL	A221	Anatomy-Physiology *	BIOL	205	Human Biology/ CSU GE Area B2
CHEM	A110	Introduction to Chemistry*	CHEM	100	Chemistry and Today's World/ CSU GE Area B1
CMST	A100	Public Speaking	COMM	130	Essential Public Speaking/ CSU GE Area A1
CMST	A220	Essentials of Argumentation	COMM	131	Essentials of Argumentation/ CSU GE Area A3
ECON	A170	Microeconomics*	ECON	101	Principles of Microeconomics/CSU GE Area D2
ECON	A175	Macroeconomics*	ECON	100	Principles of Macroeconomics/ CSU GE Area D2
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FN	A170	Nutrition	NUTR	132	Introductory Nutrition/ CSU GE Area E
MUS	A100	Hist & Appreciation of Music	MUS	190	Listener's Approach to Music
PHIL	A120	Ethics	PHIL	160	Introductory Ethics/ CSU GE Area C2
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The "Long Beach Equity Atlas" notes that while the amount of children living in poverty is alarming, it is important to remember that the statistic is based on the yearly income of their parents or guardians. Therefore, if the short-term goal is to eliminate child poverty, the focus must be on employing parents.

According to the report, 42 percent of adults living in the Sixth Council District do not have a high school education. This is higher than any other area of Long Beach.

According to Sixth District Councilman Dee Andrews' website, there are a myriad of government and nonprofit organizations dedicated to helping residents.

Organizations like the Wrigley Neighborhood Association sponsor athletic events to promote community, education and non-violent lifestyles. Programs such as these are aimed primarily at at-risk youth.

Butler says that, overall, children in these neighborhoods need safety and security.

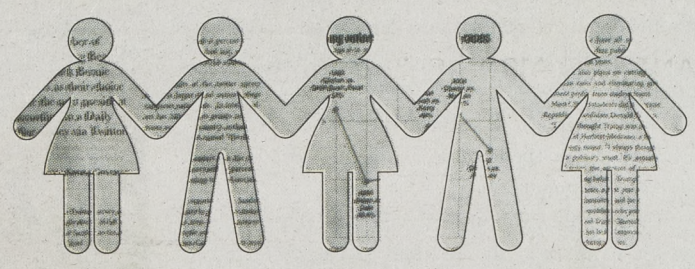
"Safe, affordable and healthy homes create stability for our youth and the neighborhoods they live in."

KEVIN FLORES | DAILY 49ER

Art for At Risk Youth: Girl particpiating in an afterschool program at First Lutheran Church in Long Beach.

Eastside

Just east of the Los Angeles River, this neighborhood was once home to the now defunct V.I.P. Records where Nate Dogg, Warren G and Snoop Dogg recorded their first demo tape. This side of "the canal" was the former stomping grounds of the then unknown hip-hop artists, the neighborhood is also home to Long Beach Polytechnic High School, which began offering classes in 1895.



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On the shears

An 'old school' barbershop on Retro Row is being sued for its unlawful policy of refusing service to women.

BY MADISON D'ORNELLAS
Print Managing Editor

It had been three months since I had got my undercut shaved.

When I walked into Hawleywood's Barber Shop, a self-proclaimed 'old school' shop, the barber politely told me that women "weren't allowed" in the shop. I left, thinking that this was just another marketing ploy to get guys in the door.

But it wasn't. It was against the law and the business is now being sued.

When Rose Trevis, a transgender male walked into Hawleywood's expecting to get a haircut on March 4, he was told that they only run by appointment. Trevis then asked if she could schedule an appointment.

A second barber was called over and, according to court documents, looked Trevis up and down and said that they "don't cut women's hair" and that the business had the right to refuse service to anyone.

Wrong.

According to the Unruh Civil Rights Act of 1959, a part of the California Civil Code, no matter the sex, race, religion, or sexual orientation of a person, they are "entitled to the full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges, or services in all business establishments of every kind whatsoever."

This statute applies to all businesses except for private clubs such as gender-specific gyms, which are protected under the First Amendment.

"We all need rights. No one, especially in Long Beach because it's so diverse, should ever be discriminated against," Trevis said. "I don't care what the situation is. I don't care about if it's your skin color, your religion, your race, you shouldn't be treated with that type of behavior."

Hawleywood's, established in 1999, runs on the notion that they are a traditional barber shop with Mad Men-era mores. They offer shoe shines, straight-razor shaves and "thorough" haircuts for various men's hairstyles.

And, according to their website, nothing is more traditional than leaving "yer ol' lady at home because you might want to talk about her. You all know how distracting a woman can be and who wants a straight razor shave with a buxom blonde in the joint?"

Hawleywood's was unavailable for comment.

According to Richie Luna, a barber at 1246 Barber Shop and a past apprentice at Hawleywood's, management and internal problems have been swelling inside Hawleywood's for years.

Luna and his coworkers at 1246 cite numerous instances of illegal discrimination that have happened within the shop; a woman in a wheelchair with her son, gay community members, a woman going through chemotherapy.

"[A number of] traditional barber shops in Long Beach, that cater towards the traditional way of barbering, have people that used to work [at Hawleywood's] and just couldn't take it anymore," Luna said. "They couldn't take everything that was going on inside of the shop. They're so about themselves. Everyone runs away from that establishment."

Hawleywood's is located in the center of 4th Street's Retro Row, across the street from the Art Theatre and a short walk from the LGBT Center.

"It's something that is just appalling to me. We're talking about Long Beach. Especially in the location this is situated; they're surrounded by a diverse community," Trevis said. "So I think this is kind of going to be like an opener. It's just not going to be tolerated."

NATALIE GRANT | DAILY 49ER

Hawleywood's barber shop on Fourth St. and Junipero Ave. provides hair cuts for the Long Beach community. Hawleywood's is currently being sued because it does not allow women to enter the shop or have their hair cut there.

Rose Park

Population: **5,178**
Zip code: **90814**
Median age: **44**

First settled in 1905, this neighborhood came into its own after being donated to the city by Alamitos Land Company in 1910. It's name is a nod to "Rose Circle Park," the horticultural crest of this hood that was destroyed in the '60s and '70s due to a proposed cross-town freeway that fell through, vacating the area. Today, climbing roses bloom next to the park's new gazebo complete with entry trellises as the city's efforts to rehabilitate its roots.

KICKING OUT CULTURE

PHOTOS BY KAREN SAWYER | DAILY 49ER

Family owned KH Supermarket at 915 E. Anaheim St. carries an assortment of Asian foods including ready to eat Cambodian snacks and desserts that cannot be purchased at major grocery stores in the rest of Long Beach. This is the kind of culture Long Beach stands to lose with the gentrification of Cambodia Town.

Housing prices have skyrocketed; the city streets are always under construction; new and expensive businesses seem to appear overnight.

Gentrification may be causing the loss of Long Beach's much-coveted diversity.

BY ARIANA SAWYER
News Editor

Long Beach is becoming gentrified.

"It's easy to turn gentrification into the boogeyman, but it many cases it's been a boon," Josh Butler, executive director of Housing Long Beach, said. "I've seen areas of Los Angeles that have undergone gentrification, and it's much improved, but I always ask for whom?"

Gentrification is like a snowball effect where young urban professionals with money who buy property end up driving the cost of living higher and higher, pricing people with low incomes and people of color out of these increasingly whiter and wealthier neighborhoods.

It started in the downtown area some 10 years ago, and with greater economic stability, gentrification has begun spreading at an accelerated rate to neighborhoods like Cambodia Town and North Long Beach.

The average home value in Downtown Long Beach went up from almost $93,000 in 2006 to over $325,000 in 2014, according to the most recent report by the Downtown Long Beach Association, a nonprofit organization that operates on behalf of property owners to improve and develop the downtown area. This may price out lower income buyers and renters.

For entrepreneurs, gentrification is a good sign. Long Beach is a smart investment for business owners or landlords with its relatively low rent, steady growth in purchasing power and eager local developers.

see **GENTRIFIED**, page 10

Above, this Cambodia Town jewelry store is closed despite business hours that list it as being open. As gentrification becomes more pervasive, the Anaheim business corridor will see more and more Southeast Asian stores closing their doors.

Right, authentic Pho restaurants line the street where community members and Long Beach residents can find their favorite traditional Vietnamese soup dish.

Cambodia Town

Also known as Little Phnom Penh, this mile-long corridor along Anaheim Street between Atlantic and Junipero is home to the largest population of Cambodian's outside of Cambodia. The surge of refugees arrived in 1975 after the fall of the U.S. backed Cambodian government to the communist Khmer Rouge, an organization most remembered for their mass genocide of the Cambodian people. A larger wave of refugees arrived four years later after the Vietnamese overthrew the Rouge's reign.

GENTRIFIED

continued from page 9

"[Gentrification] is totally torn between cultural disenfranchisement and public safety and sanitation," DLBA communications manager Brian Addison said.

DLBA calls the downtown renovations a renaissance in its report geared toward attracting more business investors. It boasts a $500,000 contribution to the $6.5 million Pine Avenue Refresh Project that resulted in 25 benches, 33 bike racks, 34 litter receptacles, 42 Pink Trumpet trees, 22 Palm trees and 96 LED pedestrian lights.

However, the report does not address the loss of residents with lower incomes.

There are entirely different people living downtown nowadays, Butler said. "My question is not is it better or worse, it's where did those people go?"

"Long Beach prides itself on its diversity," Jorge Rivera, now-former Housing Long Beach community organizer, said in an email. "Because of the increasing property values and increasing rents by wealthier people of middle class status, we are going to see poorer individuals and families pushed out of their neighborhoods. Typically, the poorer communities are people of color. So, if we are asking how it will change the culture, then we will definitely see a severe loss of our coveted diversity."

When lower income residents are pushed out of their established communities, loss of culture is a serious issue. For example, Long Beach's Anaheim Corridor once had the largest Cambodian population outside of Cambodia, but gentrification is changing that, Butler said.

Now, Anaheim Corridor business owners want to bring commercial renovation to the neighborhood, Rivera said. "However, in their discussions to date, they make no mention of the reverberating impacts higher property values will have in the surrounding community.

An assessment by the Southern California Association of Governments calls for the construction of 7,048 units in Long Beach, 43 percent of which will go toward moderate-income level households. Of the total, only 15 percent will be allocated to low-income families.

"This implies that the regional planning agency has determined that there is a greater need to plan for accommodating higher income households," Long Beach Development Services spokesperson Jacqueline Medina said.

"[Business owners] obviously want to do a good thing and improve the business for the shops in the area, not realizing how, in doing so, they will take away from the what makes the community great as it is, which is the people of the Cambodian community," Rivera said.

A large number of current Long Beach residents are at risk of displacement.

"Long Beach is by and large a low-income community," Butler said. "Over one third of Long Beach renters are paying over half their income to rent … When you're paying over 33 percent of your income to rent, you're already paying too much."

The value of housing is also a problem, especially if gentrification affects the ability of low-wage and middle-income workers to live in the neighborhoods near their jobs, according to Christine Jocoy, associate professor with Cal State Long Beach's Department of Urban Planning, in an email.

"Of course, if developers rather than individual homeowners are the main drivers of the gentrification process, then the developers will likely make money depending on the size of their developments and the prices they can charge," Jocoy said.

The pricier and more elaborate the development, the more cost of living rises.

" … Wealthier people will probably bring in more spending, which will produce more revenue, attract new businesses and people, and make the area more economically viable," Rivera said.

But that economic viability may not benefit those who can no longer afford to live in gentrified neighborhoods.

"With gentrification comes corporate interests, and money will flow out of the city," said Immigrant Rights Coalition Community Organizer Jonathan Solorzano. "With small businesses, the money tends to stay within the community."

And when people have to work two and three jobs just to live, they may not have the time or motivation to become politically active or to speak out against housing inequalities.

"It has been documented that the more income equality that exists, the less likely [low income residents] are to be civically engaged in elections or even know who their representatives are," Solorzano said.

It doesn't seem like policy makers or neighborhood renovators are making it any easier for current residents to have a say.

"There's no communication with the community themselves," Solorzano said. "They want to make a park but they don't even consult with the local community. [Residents] end up having a park at the end of the day that they don't even feel belongs to them."

The current residents feel like the renovations are really for the wealthier residents who will come replace them, Solorzano said.

On the other hand, gentrification could inspire a greater amount of political activism within threatened communities, Jocoy said.

"Some people seek gentrification and feel there are benefits, and there can be [benefits]," Butler said. "We have to ask ourselves as our community changes, what are we doing for our residents that are here now?"

Maybe it's possible to have the best of both worlds.

Rivera said, "Conscious policy must be sought in order to ensure our lower income residents and people of color are not being adversely affected, as we strive to improve health, safety, affordability and security of our city and communities."

> "[Gentrification] is totally torn between cultural disenfranchisement and public safety and sanitation."
>
> *-Brian Addison, DLBA communications*

This story previously ran in the Daily 49er on March 22, 2016.

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MATH	G160	Introduction to Statistics	HDEV	250	Elementary Statistics in Social and Behavioral Sciences
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PHIL	G100	Introduction to Philosophy	PHIL	100	Intro to Philosophy
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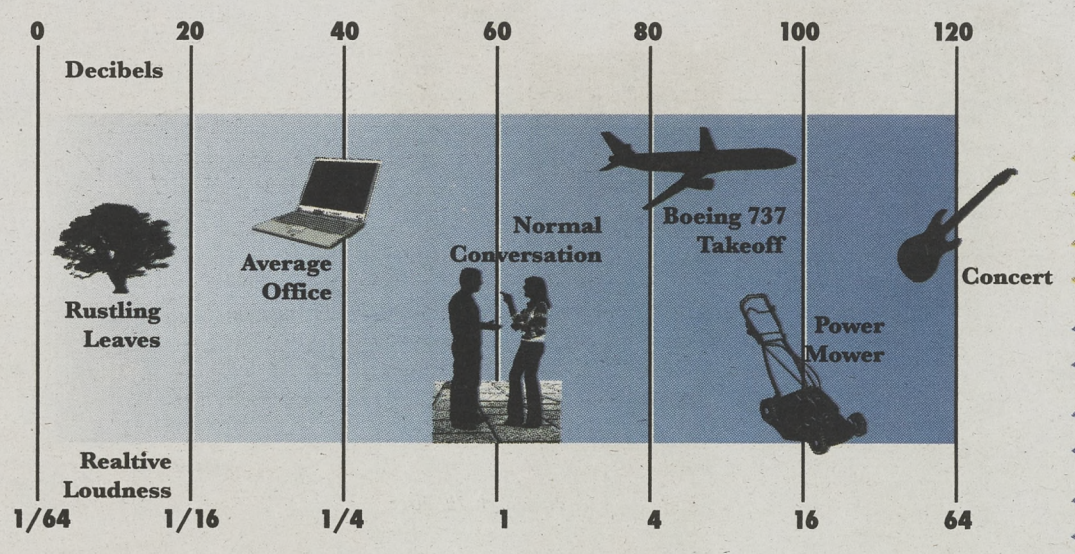
Fight over flights

In February 2016, JetBlue submitted a request to add international flights to their service which flies out of the Long Beach Airport. This service may also be extended to the other airlines that use the local hub. Residents surrounding the airport have expressed concerns over additional air pollution from more flights or a challenge to the airport's noise ordinance. The noise ordinance, established in 1990, caps the amount of decibels that commercial airlines are permitted to expel each day. The second of two public meetings about the proposed international terminal is being held today at 6 p.m. at the Long Beach Gas and Oil Auditorium.

Relative Sound Chart

While normal sound is measured in decibels, the Long Beach Airport measures sound in dBA's, which account for adjust for very high and low frequencies. This better represents the hearing of the human ear.

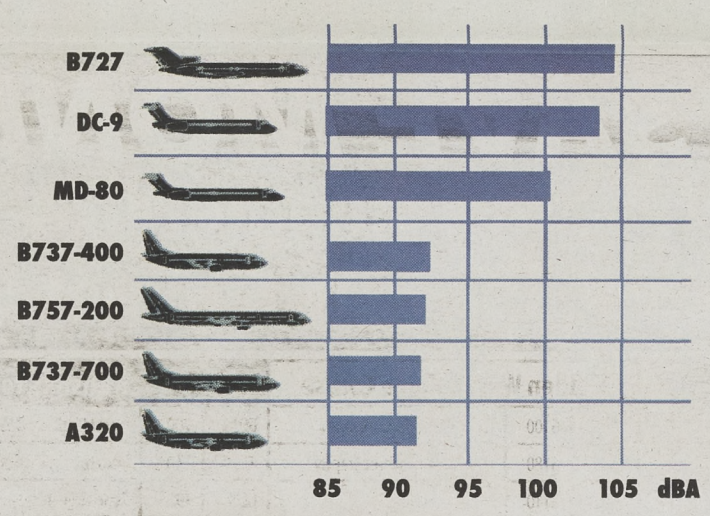


Added Flights

This year, Long Beach airport was able to add 9 more commercial flight slots per day, bringing the total to 50. The airport cited the fact that newer planes had brought commercial flights well below their noise budget in recent years.

Quieter Planes

In its proposal to add more flights, the Long Beach Airport showed that newer planes in use were quiter on takeoff and landing than flights in the early '90s. This chart shows the average dBA levels for commercial jets.



Source: Long Beach Airport
Graphic by Greg Diaz

Bixby Knolls

Area: 3.408 sq. miles

Population: 31,939

Zip code: 90805, 90807

Median age: 39.2

With most of its homes custom-built between the '20s and '40s, the "BK" fosters both a suburban-feel tucked away in the residences west of Atlantic Avenue and the urban presence through its high population density and block-party style First Fridays. Many consider Bixby Knolls half of the "Uptown Long Beach" concoction, its sister being California Heights.

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"Just as we can better understand the economic role of prices in general when we see what happens when prices are not allowed to function, so we can better understand the economic role of workers' pay by seeing what happens when that pay is not allowed to vary with the supply and demand for labor. Historically, political authorities set maximum wage levels centuries before they set minimum wage levels. Today, however, only the latter are widespread.

Minimum wage laws make it illegal to pay less than the government-specified price for labor. By the simplest and most basic economics, a price artificially raised tends to cause more to be supplied and less to be demanded than when prices are left to be determined by supply and demand in a free market. The result is a surplus, whether the price that is set artificially high is that of farm produce or labor.

Making it illegal to pay less than a given amount does not make a worker's productivity worth that amount—and, if it is not, that worker is unlikely to be employed. Yet minimum wage laws are almost always discussed politically in terms of the benefits they confer on workers receiving those wages. Unfortunately, the real minimum wage is always zero, regardless of the laws, and that is the wage that many workers receive in the wake of the creation or escalation of a government-mandated minimum wage, because they either lose their jobs or fail to find jobs when they enter the labor force."

Do you think that the $15 California minimum wage will help workers in retail sales, fast food, home health care, hospitality, or manufacturing? Is this Democrat/union sponsored law moral? Will this help you get a part time job while in college? Given that there are 2,000 hours of work a year, would you be hired at $30,000 a year?

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